



The Ticket to Work in Washington:

Challenges and Opportunities

Benefits for Consumers

- ☆ Increased incentive to explore vocational options
- ☆ Potential for increased choice of providers
- ☆ Increased consumer awareness of new work incentives and opportunities
- ☆ Exemption from continuing disability reviews (CDRs) while using the ticket (consumer has to make timely progress towards work to be considered using the ticket)

What does it mean to be an EN?

- ENs enter into an agreement with SSA to provide or coordinate services for individuals with a Ticket.
- ENs get paid when they help individuals find jobs that allow them to get off cash benefits.
- ENs have choices under the program – who they serve, what area they will cover, and what services they provide.

What are the Opportunities?

- ENs receive direct payment from SSA.
- The Ticket Program provides an additional referral source.
- Providers can form ENs under a partnership model, allowing sharing of resources and responsibilities.
- No cost to enroll as an EN.
- There are new work incentives designed to help people get off cash benefits.

Ticket in Context

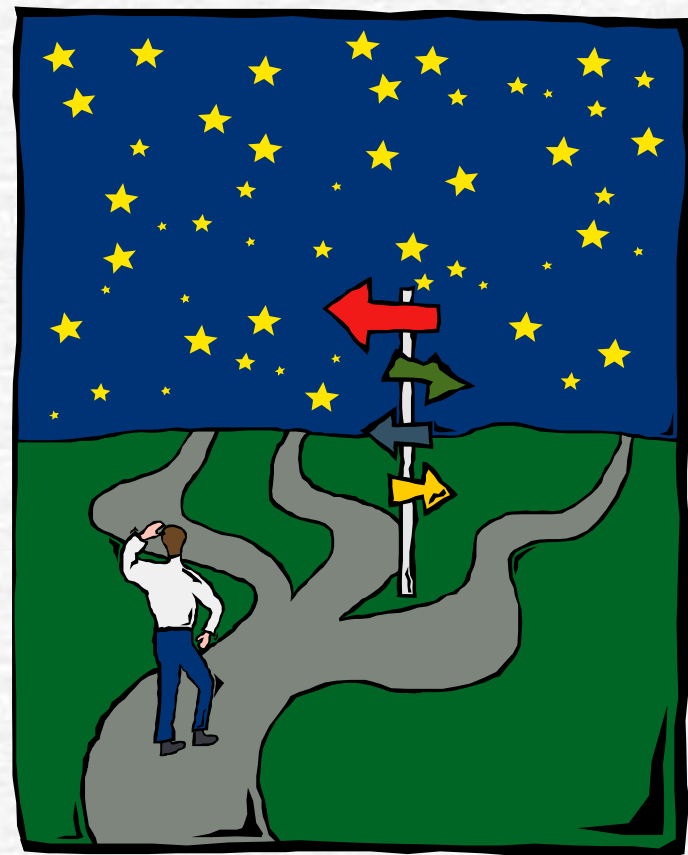
- The Ticket to Work Program is one piece of a comprehensive system to support employment.
- Focus on attitudinal change and education.
- Needs to be considered in light of work incentive changes.

New Work Incentives

- **Expedited Reinstatement:**
5-year window to get back on benefits.
- **Medicare Extension:**
At least an additional 4.5 years of Medicare after end of EPE.
- **Cessation of Continuing Disability Reviews:**
While using the ticket, individuals are exempt from CDRs.

Partners in Navigation

- Individuals with Disabilities
- Benefits Planning, Assistance and Outreach
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Medicaid Infrastructure Grants



Partners in Navigation: Individuals with Disabilities

- Inclusive policy making
- Cash and Counseling models
- Consumer Direction
 - Ticket as a form of consumer direction

Partners in Navigation: Benefits Planning Projects


- Specific information on the impact of work on state and federal benefits
- Problem solving
- Attitude change through education:
 - individual meetings
 - incorporating work into all presentations
 - group trainings on new work incentives

Partners in Navigation: Vocational Rehabilitation

- EN Partnerships or Referral Agreements
- Multiple payment methods
- Comprehensive evaluation of work interests and abilities, and delivery of vocational services
- Administrative capabilities, experience with SSA, access to data



Partners in Navigation: Medicaid Infrastructure Grants

- Incorporating employment into policy development
 - Focus on comprehensive support systems
 - State-to-State Technical Assistance
- 

What are the Challenges?

- No up-front funding from SSA.
- Historically, few SSI/DI beneficiaries earn enough to stop their cash benefits.
- Forming new business relationships that provide necessary services and supports.
- Educating beneficiaries and providers about new work incentives.
- Long term relationships and tracking of earnings.

What should you consider in becoming an EN?

- Current population served
- Percentage of population on SSI or SSDI
- Level of employment outcomes achieved
- Administrative structure (reporting and tracking requirements)
- Impact on funding from other government contracts
- Partnership options

Partnership Principles

- Partnerships should add to or enhance current services.
- Services should help beneficiaries earn enough to stop their cash benefits.
- Payments under this program should go back into the system to support more individuals to maximize self-sufficiency.
- Partners should work together to further the policy discussion on employment of SSI/SSDI beneficiaries.